

REMARKS

Pending claims

Claims 43-49 are canceled as being drawn to a non-elected invention without prejudice to filing a divisional application containing the same. Claims 24 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice to filing a continuation application containing the same. Claims 1-9, 17-23, 25-26, 28 and 31 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention. These amendments do not contain new matter and are fully supported by the specification.

Support for the amendment of claim 1 can be found in the specification. For example, the phrase "each nozzle is sized to form drops having a volume of less than 100 picoliters of colorant, and wherein the ink jet printer is capable of printing, on the surface of the contact lens, pixels which are less than 150 microns in diameter" can be supported by the second full paragraph on page 9, lines 9-16; the phrase "an ink jet printer having a plurality of **nozzles**" can be supported by the third full paragraph on page 9, lines 17-22; the phrase "transporting a contact lens into an ink jet printer" can be supported by the paragraph bridging page 9 and page 10; the phrase "a pattern" can be supported by the first and second paragraphs on page 7, lines 1-13; the word "droplets" can be found page 6, lines 11-12; and the phrase "under control of a computer" can be supported by the page 9, lines 23-24 and lines 28-30.

Supports for the amendments of claims 2-3 and 7-8 can be found in the third full paragraph on page 9, lines 17-22.

Support for the amendments of claims 4 and 6 can be found in originally filed claim 3; the third paragraph on page 6, lines 14-16; and the last full paragraph on page 6, lines 28-31.

Supports for the amendment of claim 5 can be found in originally filed claims 33.

Supports for newly added claims 50-51 can be found in originally filed claims 36-37.

Support for newly added claims 52-58 can be found the section under the section heading "EXEMPLARY USES OF DIGITAL PRINTING" starting at page 13, line 4 and ending at page 14, line 17.

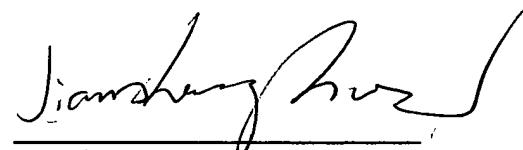
After these amendments are entered, forty nine (49) Claims (claims 1-23, 25-26, 28-42, and 50-58) are pending. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the **claims** by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Marking To Show Changes Made."

After these amendments are entered, all pending claims are directed to the invention in Group I; claims 1-17 and 50-58 belong to the species of method of making colored contact lens in which an ink jet printing process is used (i.e., Group Ia); independent claim 17 after this Amendment is duplicate of originally filed claim 1 and is generic to Group I.

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that claims 40-42 can be combined together with the generic claims 1 (currently claim 17) and 39 without creating an undue burden on the Examiner.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Thomas Hoxie, Novartis Corporation, Corporate Intellectual Property, One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0134.

Respectfully submitted,



Jian S. Zhou
Reg. No. 41,422
(678) 415-4691

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Novartis Corporation
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Bldg. 430
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080



Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Please amend claims 1-9, 17-23, 25-26, 28 and 31 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of making a colored contact lens, the method comprising the steps of:
transporting a contact lens into an ink jet printer having a plurality of nozzles, wherein each nozzle is sized to form drops having a volume of less than 100 picoliters of colorant, and wherein the ink jet printer is capable of printing, on the surface of the contact lens, pixels which are less than 150 microns in diameter, and
printing at least one layer of a colorant onto a contact lens using a printing process selected from the group consisting of ink jet printing, electrophotographic printing, thermal transfer printing, and photographic development printing a first pattern on a surface of the contact lens by, under control of a computer, dispensing droplets of a first colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the nozzles face perpendicular to the surface of the contact lens to be printed and form a hemisphere around the contact lens printing process comprises ink jet printing.
3. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the printing step is performed, under control of the computer, by dispensing droplets of the first colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens while rotating the contact lens 2 wherein the colorant is an ink comprising at least one pigment.
4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, 2 wherein the first colorant is an ink comprising at least one pigment, and wherein the ink is characterized by being capable of drying in less than 5 second, by having a viscosity of from about 1 to about 50 centipoise, and by being capable of adhering to the contact lens and retaining the shape of the contact lens after being treated in an autoclave dye.
5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising printing a second pattern by, under control of the computer, dispensing droplets of a second colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens 2 wherein the colorant is an organic-based ink.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 2 5, wherein the first and second colorants independent of each other are is an inks comprising at least one pigment, and wherein the ink is characterized by being capable of drying in less than 5 second, by having a viscosity of from about 1 to about 50 centipoise, and by being capable of adhering to the contact lens and retaining the shape of the contact lens after being treated in an autoclave.
7. (Amended) The method of claim 2 5, wherein the nozzles face perpendicular to the surface of the contact lens to be printed and form a hemisphere around the contact lens ink has a viscosity of from about 2 to about 30 centipoise.
8. (Amended) The method of claim 2 5, wherein the printing step is performed, under control of the computer, dispensing droplets of the first or second colorant from one or more nozzles, onto the surface of the contact lens while rotating the contact lens comprising dispersing a first colorant into the contact lens before printing.
9. (Amended) The method of claim 2 1 further comprising coating the lens with a binding solution.
17. (Amended) The A method of claim 1 making a colored contact lens, the method comprising printing at least one layer of a colorant in a pattern onto a contact lens using a printing process selected from the group consisting of wherein the printing process comprises ink jet printing, electrophotographic printing, thermal transfer printing process, and photographic development printing.
18. (Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the printing process comprises electrophotographic printing using a photosensitive sphere or hemisphere to wherein a electrophotographic printer prints the colorant in the form of toner directly onto the contact lens using a photosensitive sphere.
19. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the sphere or hemisphere contacts a surface of rolls across the contact lens to transfer toner to the lens to the surface of the contact lens.
20. (Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the contact lens is placed on the sphere or hemisphere and toner is transferred to the contact lens using a toner transfer mechanism.
21. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the toner transfer mechanism is selected from the group consisting of a roller, a mold, and a ball.

22. (Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the printing step comprises printing onto a film on a mold for making the contact lens, and wherein the film becomes integral with the contact lens when the contact lens is formed in the mold wherein a electrophotographic printer prints the colorant in the form of toner directly onto the contact lens using a photosensitive hemisphere.
23. (Amended) The method of claim 17, 18 wherein the printing step comprises printing onto a pad and using the pad with the printing to print directly on the contact lens the hemisphere contacts the contact lens to transfer toner to the lens.
25. (Amended) The method of claim 201, wherein the toner transfer mechanism comprises a ball.
26. (Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the printing process comprises thermal transfer printing using a multiple-color complement system.
28. (Amended)The method of claim 276 wherein each component color of the multiple-color complement system is associated with a ribbon for transferring the component color to the contact lens or to a film on a mold for the contact lens.
31. (Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the printing process comprises photographic development printing.